to the thermal asperity is approximately equal to 5 nm, the fine projection 121 may more frequently hit the end surface 112a of the film structure part 112. The magnitude Nh of the expansion of the film structure part will be described in detail later with reference to Fig. 28B.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 32, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Hence, the fifth through the ninth embodiments of the present invention are to provide an MR head and a magnetic disk apparatus equipped with the same in which the MR head has an improved structure which makes it possible for a fine projection on the magnetic disk to hit the MR head without causing an abnormal reproduction signal.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice, and enter the following new claims 19-26 as follows:

19. (New) A magnetic head comprising:

a slider having a rail with a top surface;

a thin-film element part for writing and reading information formed on an end of said rail top surface of said slider; and

a protective film formed on said thin-film element part and defining a distal end of the rail whereby air exits said slider at said distal end, said protective film having an end surface between at least two recesses, said thin-film element being positioned outside and between said reeesses and on said end surface, said recesses being formed within a width of said rail and extending to said distal end defined by said protective film.

20. (New) A magnetic head, comprising:

a slider with a flying surface;

a thin-film element for writing and reading information formed on an end of said slider; and

a protective film formed on said thin-film element and defining a distal end where air exits said slider, said protective film having a side surface generally perpendicular to said flying surface with a recess extending from an area near said thin-film element to said distal end of said protective film.

21. (New) The magnetic head as claimed in claim 20, wherein said recess has a cross section of a step or a letter V.

22. (New) A magnetic disk apparatus comprising:

a head supporting part for carrying a magnetic head claimed in claim 19, for writing and reading information to enable said head to float over a recording medium;

an arm part on which said head supporting part is fitted; and

a driving part for moving said arm part over said recording medium.

23. (New) The magnetic head as claimed in claim 20, wherein said thin-film element is constructed of a combination of an electromagnetic induction element and a magnetoresistant element.

24. (New) The magnetic head as claimed in claim 21, wherein said thin-film element is constructed of a combination of an electromagnetic induction element and a magnetoresistant element.

25. (New) A magnetic disk apparatus comprising:

a head supporting part for carrying a magnetic head claimed in claim 20, for writing and reading information to enable said head to float over a recording medium;

an arm part on which said head supporting part is fitted; and

a driving part for moving said arm part over said recording medium.